

# TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



# TWIN SPICA

10

Kou Yaginuma



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I WANNA  
BE A ROCKET  
DRIVER AND  
DRIVE WAY  
UP HIGH  
AND LOOK  
DOWN ON  
YUASA BAY  
INTO SPACE  
BAY.

THAT'S  
MY  
DREAM.



MY  
OTHER  
DREAM  
IS—

AND



MISSION:47

















YUP.



YOU'LL  
BE HERE  
TOMORROW  
TOO,  
RIGHT?



HMM?

MR.  
LION.



THAT'S  
GOOD  
TO  
KNOW.

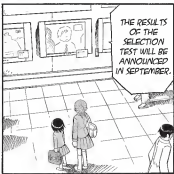


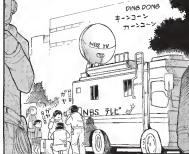
ASUNA!





























SHE SAID  
SHE WAS  
DOING  
RESEARCH IN  
THE LIBRARY.



WHY  
IS SHE  
BEING  
SUCH A  
LOSER?



YEAH,  
RIGHT.



JUST  
FOR  
NOW.  
HE'S  
JUST  
A FAD.

SO  
SUZUKI'S

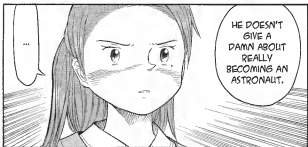
BECOMING  
A SCHOOL  
CELEBRITY.



DIDN'T  
EVEN  
COME  
TO THE  
CEREMONY.  
WHAT'S HE  
DOING?

THE  
CELEB  
HIMSELF

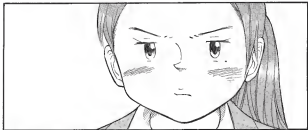
















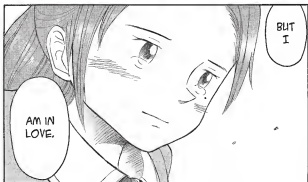
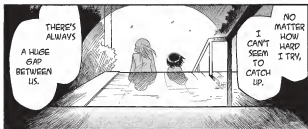




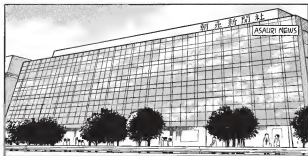
THEY  
WERE  
NASTY  
TO ME,

BUT I  
PUT UP  
WITH IT  
THIS TIME.









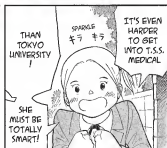


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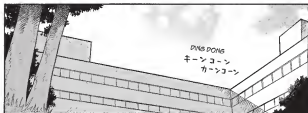
























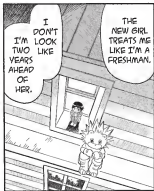
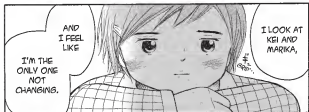








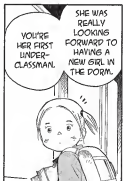
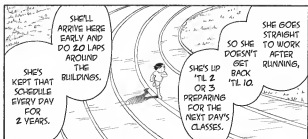




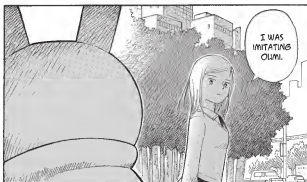


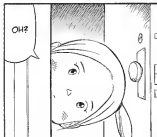


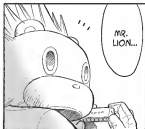










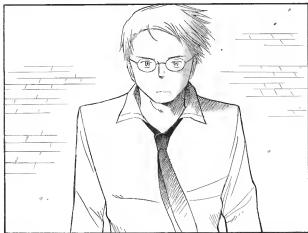


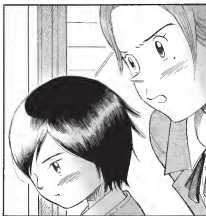


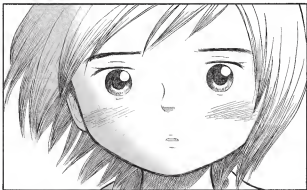




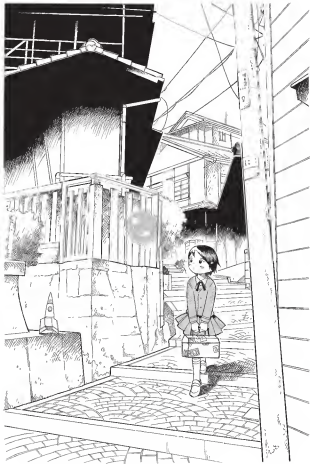








# MISSION:49











WAS  
BOUGHT  
PART AND  
PARCEL  
FROM A  
CERTAIN  
COUNTRY.

THE  
MAIN  
ENGINE  
OF "THE  
LION"



YOU  
WERE  
RIGHT.



BOUGHT  
?!  
!!



TO  
PRESS-  
URE  
FROM  
ABOVE.

WE  
CAVED



I  
THOUGHT  
YOU'D  
SETTLED  
ON THE  
ITOZAWA  
PLAN.

AFTER  
ALL THAT  
NEGO-  
TIATING,

BUT  
WHY ?



I  
CAN'T SAY  
THAT THAT  
COUNTRY'S  
ENGINEERING  
IS WHAT  
CAUSED THE  
CRASH.

THE  
PROBLEM  
WAS THE  
DEVELOP-  
MENT  
TEAM'S  
MORALE.

HAVING THE  
YOUNGEST  
ASTRONAUT  
EVER ON BOARD

ALSO  
SAVE  
OUR  
PROJECT  
A PUSH

WITH  
THE  
APPROVAL  
RATINGS  
AMONG  
THE  
PUBLIC  
VERY  
HIGH

THE PR  
CAMPAIGN  
WAS FAR  
MORE  
SUCCESS-  
FUL THAN  
EXPECTED

YOU WERE  
ON LOAN  
FROM A  
FIRM SO  
MAYBE YOU  
DIDN'T  
KNOW

THE  
MANNED  
ROCKET  
PROJECT WAS  
ENTIRELY  
THE SPACE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONSORTIUM'S  
IDEA.



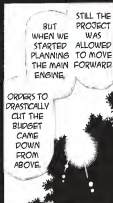
THE  
NUMBER OF  
ASTRONAUT  
APPLICANTS

WAS  
IMPRESSION-  
ING, TOO.

EUROPE  
AND CHINA  
HAD  
ALREADY  
LAUNCHED  
MANNED  
SHIPS.

SO WE  
WERE  
SCRAMBLING  
TO CATCH  
UP







IT WAS  
JUST  
A MEANS.

BUT FOR THE  
AUTHORITIES,  
SPACE  
WASN'T  
A DREAM.

A MANNED  
MISSION  
WAS THE  
ETERNAL  
GOAL

FOR  
US,



WE  
HAD NO  
CHOICE...

BUT



TO MAKE  
OUR OWN  
MANNED  
ROCKET.

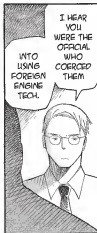
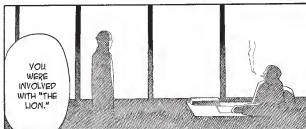
I REALLY  
WANTED



SINCE  
I WAS  
A LITTLE  
KID.

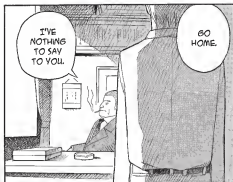
IT  
WAS  
MY  
DREAM

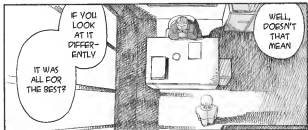














THAT'S WHY  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO GO.



HEY,  
SANO?

YOU  
HAVEN'T  
REALLY  
GIVEN UP,  
HAVE YOU?



BUT I WANT  
TO SEE  
WITH MY  
OWN EYES

THE  
REALIZATION  
OF YOUR  
DREAMS.

I'LL BE  
WAITING

IN  
YUISHAHAMA.















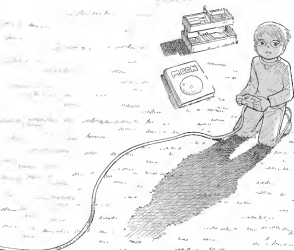




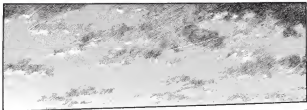


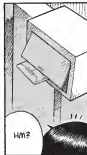
NO  
MATTER  
WHAT,





**DON'T GIVE  
UP ON YOUR  
DREAM.**

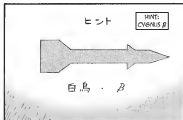






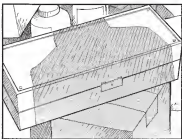




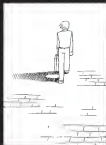




**MISSION:50**





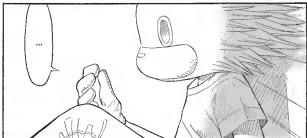




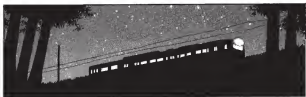












HEY,  
SANO.





VLISA-HAMA.



BUT I CHECKED TO SEE

WHERE WE'D HAVE THE BEST VIEW, OF THE SEA TOO.



THEY SAY THE LAUNCH CAN BE SEEN

FROM PRETTY MUCH ANY BEACH IF IT'S A CLEAR DAY.



SORRY, CAN'T. I'VE GOT

WORK TOMORROW.



WANT TO GO WITH ME?









PROF-  
ESSOR  
SANO?

OH,  
THEY'RE  
IN THE  
COUNT-  
DOWN!

"THE LION"  
IS FINALLY  
LAUNCHING.

PREPPING  
FOR TOMOR-  
ROW'S  
LECTURE.

UH,  
I'M JUST

SCHOOL'S OUT  
TODAY.  
WHAT'S UP?





"THE  
LION" IS  
GOING  
DOWN!



THE  
ROCKET IS  
VEERING  
OFF  
COURSE.



AH!!



"THE LION"  
HAS  
CRASHED  
NEAR  
YUIGAHAMA.

OH  
MY  
...  
"THE  
LION"  
HAS  
CRASHED  
!



THE SEA  
NEAR  
YUIGAHAMA  
IS VERY  
PRETTY.

THE  
PATHS  
WITH  
MANY  
STAIRS,



THE  
BRIGHT RED  
OF THE  
SHRINE  
ARCHWAYS,  
AND THE OLD-  
FASHIONED  
POSTBOXES  
ARE PRETTY  
AS WELL.

THE TREES  
RUSTLING  
IN THE  
BREEZE  
ARE  
LOVELY.



THE  
SKY  
IS  
CLEAR.





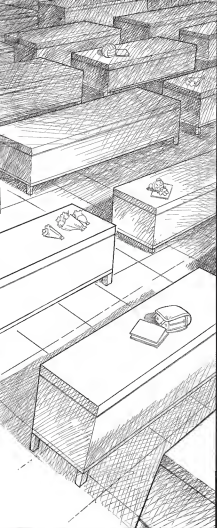
IS THAT  
IN THE END,  
I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
WHO  
LOVES YOU,  
SANO.

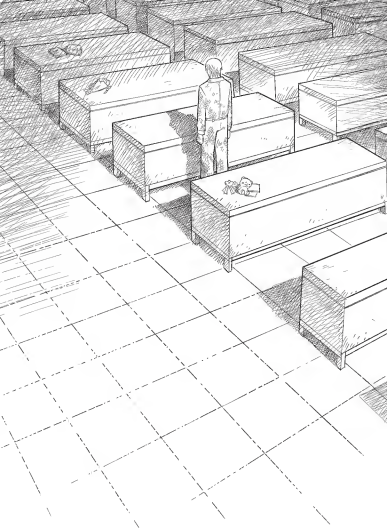


THE  
ONLY  
SAD  
THING

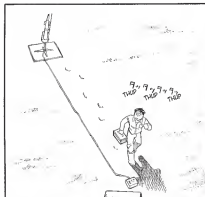
THE COSMOS  
BLOOMING  
BY THE  
ROADS  
ARE  
VERY PRETTY.















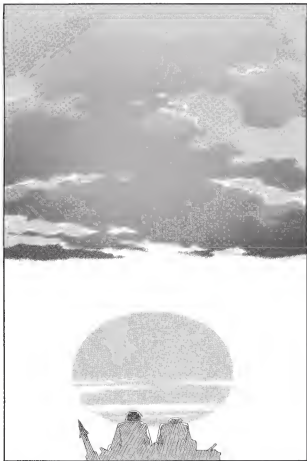














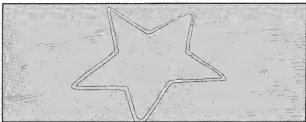
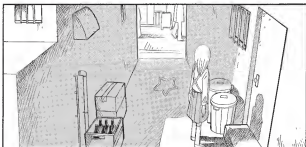




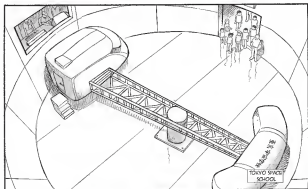
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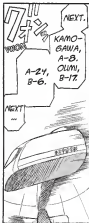
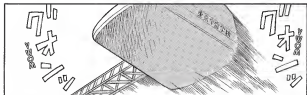




















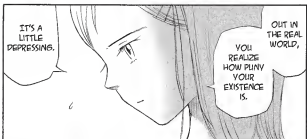
I'M NOT  
USED TO  
WORKING  
A JOB,

SO  
I'M  
TIRED.



W  
H  
A

YOU  
SURE  
?



IT'S A  
LITTLE  
DEPRESSING.

OUT IN  
THE REAL  
WORLD,  
  
YOU  
REALIZE  
HOW PUNY  
YOUR  
EXISTENCE  
IS.



I REALIZE  
HOW STUPID  
IT IS TO ACT  
TOUGH.  
FUNNY.

BUT  
WHEN  
I'M  
WITH  
YOU,



SOMEHOW  
MADE ME  
GLAD.

THAT

SLOWLY,

BETTING  
CLOSER  
TO HER.

I FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
SLOWLY,

I'M CLOSER  
TO SUZUKI  
AND HE'S  
CLOSER  
TO ME.

I'M CLOSER  
TO FUCHIYA  
AND HE'S  
CLOSER  
TO ME.

AND  
KEI'S  
CLOSER  
TO ME.

I'M  
CLOSER  
TO KEI,

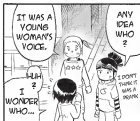
AND SHE'S  
CLOSER  
TO ME.

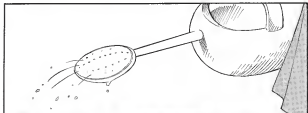
I'M  
CLOSER  
TO  
MARIKA,

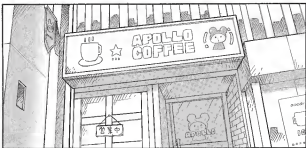
WHAT IT  
MEANS  
TO BE  
FRIENDS.

THIS  
JUST  
MIGHT  
BE



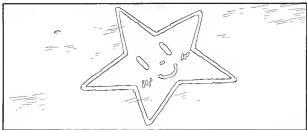


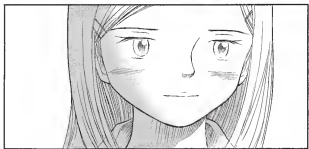
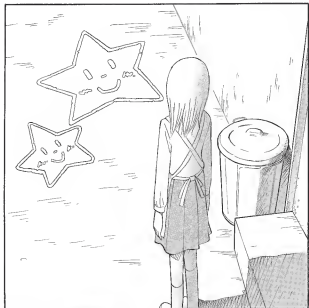


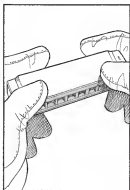
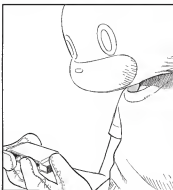
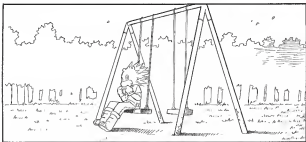












ONCE IN A  
GREAT WHILE,  
THERE ARE  
SOULS THAT  
CAN'T CROSS  
OVER, EVEN IN  
THE BOAT.



OR  
IMPORTANT  
UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS.



IT'S  
HARD TO  
MAKE  
THAT  
JOURNEY  
IF  
YOU'VE  
GOT SOME-  
THINGS YOU  
CAN'T LET  
GO OF



YOU, TOO,  
SEEM  
TO HAVE  
A DREAM  
THAT WENT  
UNREALIZED.







AND  
BEFORE THEY  
KNOW IT,  
THEY'RE FAR  
AWAY FROM  
THEIR DREAMS.

JUST TO LIVE,  
MOST PEOPLE  
ACCEPT COM-  
PROMISES,  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE,

IT'S  
EASIER  
TO GET.

A COM-  
PROMISE IS  
ALWAYS  
LYING  
RIGHT  
IN FRONT  
OF YOUR  
DREAM.

OR THEY'LL  
NEVER  
BLOOM  
LARGE.

DREAMS  
ARE THE  
SAME. YOU  
HAVE TO  
HOLD ON

IT'LL BE  
YEARS  
BEFORE  
IT BEARS  
FRUIT.

IT NEEDS  
TO BE  
WATERED  
EVERY  
DAY.

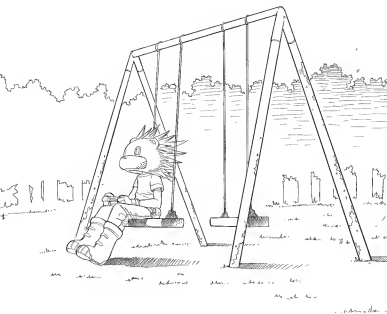
FOR A  
SAPLING  
TO GROW  
INTO  
A BIG  
TREE,

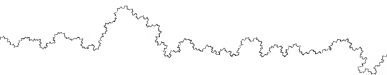
IS JUST THAT  
FAR AWAY,  
TOO.

THE OUTER  
SPACE YOU  
DREAM OF









amplitude

time

frequency

amplitude

frequency

amplitude

time

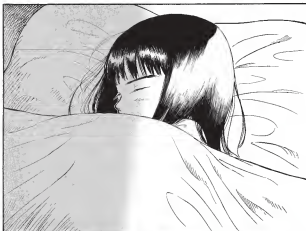
amplitude

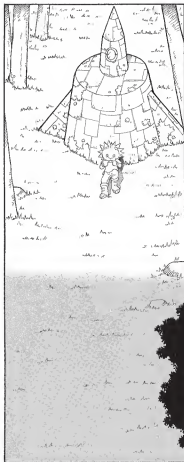
time

amplitude











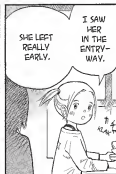
## MISSION:52









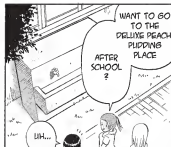






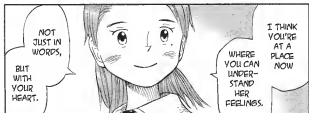














MIKAN,  
YOU SAW  
HER?!

WRONG  
DETAIL.

SHE WAS  
EATING  
SWEET-BEAN  
BREAD  
FROM  
KAWAZAKI.

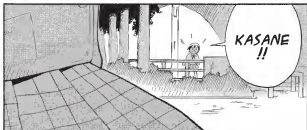
I'VE GOT  
HAWK'S  
EYES.

I'M  
PRETTY  
SURE.

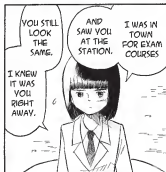
WHERE  
?!

IN  
SAKURA  
PARK.

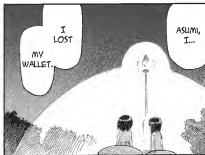








I MEAN  
HOW LONG  
?

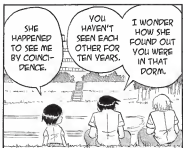








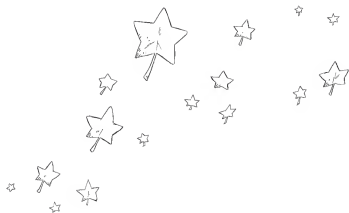




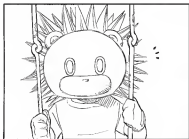
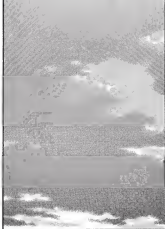


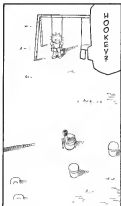














# ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

and sending them along the conveyor belts according to their destination.



My job was wrapping orders for a big department store



I was working in a warehouse somewhere along Tokyo Bay.



This happened one summer, a few years after I graduated college.



I was forced into a college exam fray where the acceptance rates were depressing.



PUNNO

ARE POLITICIANS RICH?

I was born in '73, part of the large Junior Boomer Generation.



THAT'S FROM A CERTAIN POLITICIAN.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE THAT CAN AFFORD \$500 SUMMER GIFTS?



Our generation was walked all over and kicked around.



We never got even a crumb from the feast of the Bubble years.

DING DONG  
キーン  
カーン

IT BURST? BUBBLE?



By the time we graduated, the recession had begun. Jobs were scarce.

WHO SAID THE ECONOMY WOULD BOUNCE BACK IN 4 YEARS?





Miss N dropped out of high school and worked as a semi-full-timer there.

IF YOU GET TOO USED TO IT, IT'LL BE HARD TO QUIT.  
DON'T GET TOO COZY.

We were the same age, yet she always spoke politely to me.



I'd just started to look forward to going to work there and was at a loss about what I really wanted to do.



I honestly can't remember a thing I said. I was dumbfounded, completely taken off-guard.



It was the girl who dumped me in school.



It'd been years since I'd heard her voice.



I got the call one night that summer.





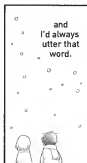
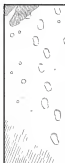
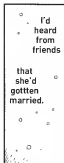
right  
before we  
hung up.

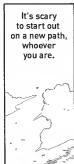


But I  
couldn't  
forget  
what she  
said

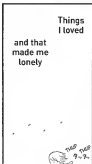


I had no  
idea at  
that point  
why she'd  
suddenly  
called.









### Notes on the Translation

## P. 13

"Chief Cabinet Secretary" is an important administration post that has no immediate American counterpart, combining as it does elements of the functions of White House Chief of Staff, White House Press Secretary, and Vice President. It is considered a stepping stone to an eventual premiership.



## P. 38, 39

Tokushima and Ehime are both prefectures on Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four major islands. While Tokushima also produces "mikan" or oranges, it is Ehime that is known for them. Resident advisor Sakashita, whose first name "Ringo" means apple, jokes about their fruitful meeting on the next page. (There is no Japanese expression about how the two can't be compared.)



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"Kou Yaginuma has created a fascinating alternate future for Japan, where tragedy becomes the foundation of both the protagonist's story and her country's entry into the space race... Asumi's single-minded dedication to her childhood dream is admirable. As soon as I finished this book, I found myself already longing to read more." —*i♥manga!*



$$N = R + f_p + n_e + f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_L$$